

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 1-4 and 6-8 will be active in the application subsequent to entry of this Amendment.

The claims have been amended in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim that which applicants regard as their invention, to feature preferred aspects of the disclosure, to respond to the rejection in item 2 of the Official Action and to progress examination generally.

The subject matter of claim 9 has been incorporated into all pending claims, namely the claims are directed to a sliding member comprising the defined composition. The significance of this Amendment will be noted in the remarks that follow. In addition, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 5 and the dependency of claim 6 has been revised.

In preparing this response an omission has been noted in the text of claim 1, namely that the composition includes a hydrocarbon-based wax in the amount of 1 to 10% by weight and the amount of the selected compound is 0.1 to 3% by weight. This has been restored to claim 1. Basis for this amendment will be apparent on page 4 of the description, the Abstract and in many other places in the disclosure. This Amendment also provides basis for the further definition of the hydrocarbon-based wax in dependent claim 3.

A minor grammatical error has been corrected in claim 3 and a typographical error is corrected in claim 7 as the correct term is oxydiphenylene.

The above amendments will serve to focus attention on limited aspects of the current Official Action as discussed in more detail below.

Response to Prior Art-Based Rejections

First of all, claim 5 has not been included in the rejection stated in item 3 thus the cited JP '048 is no longer pertinent since claim 5 has been incorporated into claim 1 and, in effect, all pending claims by virtue of their dependency.

This leaves for consideration the rejection stated in item 4 of the Official Action. Counsel notes that the examiner has not paid particular attention to the term "sliding member" in claims 1-8 as previously presented as this is apparently regarded by the examiner as an "intended use". These claims have been revised to direct them to a sliding member in the manner of original claim 9 (now canceled) which includes the resin composition defined in these claims.

The only reference remaining that is relevant is Ohkawachi et al US 5,677,055. A closer review of this citation will reveal that applicants' claims are patentably distinguished from the disclosures of this document.

Ohkawachi describes a stretched resin film which, as stated in the abstract, comprises as a base material a resin composition composed of the following components (A), (B), (C) and (D):

100 parts by weight of (A) a thermoplastic polyester resin;

3 to 100 parts by weight of (B) a modified olefin based resin obtained by graft polymerizing 0.01 to 20 parts by weight of an α,β -unsaturated carboxylate based monomer having one to six hydroxyl groups and 0.01 to 50 parts by weight of an aromatic vinyl compound onto 100 parts by weight of an olefin based resin;

1 to 10 parts by weight of (C) a polyethylene resin having a weight mean average molecular weight of 1,000 to 10,000; and

1 to 10 parts by weight of (D) a bisphenol epoxy resin.

Included in Ohkawachi, there is a description (at column 7, beginning at line 14) "(3) Applications": "The *stretched resin film* according to the present invention is useful by itself as a poster paper, a drafting paper or a label paper; or is useful as a support for a printing paper, a heat sensitive recording paper or a thermal transfer image receiving paper, using the stretched resin film alone or upon laminating the same with another paper, a polyester or the like, whereafter, if desired, one can form a gelatin layer, a heat-sensitive recording coating layer or an image receiving recording layer on the surface of the stretched film." (emphasis added)

However, there is no description nor suggestion of a "sliding member" because the invention of Ohkawachi is a stretched resin film. Therefore, the technical field of Ohkawachi is completely different from that of the present invention.

Therefore, the resin composition of the sliding member according to the present invention is completely different from the stretched resin film of Ohkawachi.

From the above amendments to the claims it will be apparent that Ohkawachi's stretched resin film is distinctly different from sliding members disclosed and claimed in the present application. The technical field of endeavor of Ohkawachi is stretched films and no regard is given or suggestion made as to the constitution of a composition that is different from Ohkawachi for a different use, namely as a component of a sliding member.

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For the above reasons it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-4 and 6-8 define inventive subject matter. Reconsideration and allowance are solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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